

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 MC-02

TRSE-00 /048 W

----- 117354

R 202011Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6861

USDOC WASHDC

INFO FAA BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CT, XJ, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIRCRAFT SALES PROSPECT FOR CAR

REF: PARIS 3376 (NOTAL)

1. PAITEL HAS WRITTEN US THAT AIRCRAFT CAR IS SEEKING IS USED BOEING 737-200 PREFERABLY WITH LOW PRESSURE TIRES. THESE SPECS ARE DETERMINED BY 4,000 KM. RANGE DESIRED AND NATURE OF SOME OF THE AIRFIELDS TO BE USED. ENCLOSED WITH PAITEL'S LETTER WAS ANOTHER ADDRESSED TO US BY SERGE KIRJNER, GIVING RETURN ADDRESS IN PARIS SUBURB OF ST. CLOUD, AND TYPED ON PAPER BEARING LETTER-HEAD "HONORARY CONSUL OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC". IN HIS LETTER KIRJNER CONFIRMED THAT GOCAR DESIRED PURCHASE A USED BOEING AND HE ASKED THAT EMBASSY "MAKE AN OFFER THROUGH ME TO THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BANGUI ACCOMPANIED BY ALL THE TERMS POSSIBLE".

2. PAITEL SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED AGAIN AT EMBASSY AND WAS RECEIVED BY RCAA AND FAA REP. WE INFORMED HIM THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE A FEW MORE DETAILS SUBSTANTIATING HIS AND KIRJNER'S CREDENTIALS. WE NOTED THAT FRENCH DIPLOMATIC LIST INDICATED CAR EMBASSY IN PARIS PERFORMED ITS OWN CONSULAR FUNCTIONS AND NO CAR HONORARY CONSULS WERE LISTED FOR FRANCE. WE ASKED WHY CAR EMBASSY IN PARIS RATHER THAN "HONORARY CONSUL" DID NOT SUPPORT PAITEL APPROACH TO US, AND WE FURTHER ASKED WHY CAR AUTHORITIES HAD NOT BROACHED MATTER DIRECTLY WITH OUR EMBASSY IN BANGUI.

3. PAITEL SAID KIRJNER HAD MANY BUSINESS INTERESTS IN AFRICA AND WAS CLOSE FRIEND OF BOKASSA, WHO HAD ASKED KIRJNER TO SEE ABOUT BUYING USED AIRCRAFT. KIRJNER WAS "HONORARY CONSUL" BUT PAITEL WAS VAGUE AS TO WHERE. BOKASSA DOUBTLESS HAD HIS REASONS FOR WANTING TO PROCEED IN THIS MANNER RATHER THAN THROUGH CAR EMBASSY PARIS OR OUR EMBASSY IN BANGUI. PAITEL BREEZILY REMARKED THAT AFRICAN LEADERS "FREQUENTLY EXILE DOMESTIC TROUBLEMAKERS TO OVERSEAS AMBASSADORIAL POSTS AND SUREST WAY FOR EUROPEAN TO QUEER A BUSINESS DEAL IN AFRICA WAS TO WORK THROUGH THE COUNTRY'S EMBASSY". PAITEL WAS EQUALLY EVASIVE CONCERNING HIS OWN ROLE. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE SERVED SEVERAL YEARS IN AFRICA IN GOF ADMINISTRATION THERE BEFORE INDEPENDENCE AND HAD THEN BEEN WITH INTERIOR MINISTRY IN PARIS BEFORE LEAVING GOF SERVICE. HE WAS NOT FORTHCOMING ON WHAT HIS BUSINESS IS NOW. HE SAID HE WAS ACTING ON KIRJNER'S BEHALF VIS-A-VIS EMBASSY BECAUSE OF HIS (PAITEL'S) FRIENDSHIP WITH MOORE, FORMER FAA REP HERE.

4. WE TOLD PAITEL THAT WE WOULD FOLLOW UP FURTHER WITH USDOC IN EFFORT ASCERTAIN WHETHER USED 737'S MIGHT BE ON THE MARKET, BUT OUR ROLE WOULD BE LIMITED TO PLACING PAITEL/KIRJNER IN CONTACT WITH ANY EVENTUAL SELLER WITH WHOM THEY COULD PURSUE DISCUSSIONS DIRECTLY.

5. FOR USDOC: PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER ANY US AIRLINE OR BROKER MAY HAVE USED BOEING 737-200 FOR SALE AND, IF SO, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROVIDE NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON PAITEL/KIRJNER SHOULD CONTACT FOR FOLLOW-UP.

6. FOR KINSHASA: WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR ANY FURTHER CONTACTS WE MIGHT HAVE WITH PAITEL IF MOORE OF FAA TEAM COULD TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT PAITEL AND WHETHER HE CAN VOUCH FOR HIM.

7. FOR BANGUI: ARE PAITEL AND KIRJNER KNOWN TO EMBASSY?
STONE

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